

Amendment to the Abstract

The Abstract has been amended. A revised Abstract is attached.

Please delete page 21, lines 4-26, and substitute therefor, the attached Abstract.

~~A negative working image forming process which comprises the steps of:~~

~~(1) flood exposing with actinic radiation a photosensitive assembly that comprises:~~

~~—— (a) a hydrophilic support which can be used as a lithographic base and having thereon;~~

~~—— (b) a first layer comprising:~~

~~—— (i) at least one polymer that is soluble or dispersible in an aqueous alkaline solution; —— (c) a second layer on top of the first layer, the second layer comprising at least~~

~~one o-quinonediazide compound; whereby the flood exposure causes the at least one o-quinonediazide compound to be converted to the corresponding indenecarboxylic acid compound; and~~

~~—— (d) at least one photothermal conversion material in either the first layer or the second layer or both;~~

~~(2) imagewise exposing the flood exposed photosensitive assembly with infrared radiation to thereby convert the indenecarboxylic acid compound in the second layer in the imagewise exposed areas to the corresponding indene compound; and~~

~~(3) developing the imagewise exposed photosensitive assembly with an alkaline developing solution to dissolve out the imagewise unexposed areas of the second layer and the areas of the first layer underlying the imagewise unexposed areas of the second layer and thereby produce a negative working image.~~

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A process for forming a negative image useful as a printing plate is disclosed. A photosensitive assembly that comprises (a) a hydrophilic support, (b) a first layer that comprises a polymer that is soluble or dispersible in an aqueous alkaline solution, (c) a second layer that comprises at least one o-quinonediazide compound, and (d) an infrared absorbing compound is: (1) flood exposed with ultraviolet radiation; (2) imagewise exposed with infrared laser radiation; and (3) developed to produce the negative image.

Attachment